

PIPA - the RTPI Politicians in Planning Network - Action Plan for 2007 - 2008

Purpose of the Network

- To raise the profile of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective
- To provide a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences
- To provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice
- To provide a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK




Role of the Core Group

The Core Group members reflect the interests and expertise of the Network membership and provide a point of engagement with other related groups. They are therefore well placed to keep the Network Manager alert to and abreast of current issues and sources of good practice, ensuring that the activities and resources offered to members are the most pertinent and relevant.


Actions

Raise the profile of professional planning amongst people who are engaged in planning from a political perspective

| Action | By Whom | Outcomes | When | Q4 Progress |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|------------|---|
| Develop a Marketing Strategy to build membership and activities | NM in conjunction with Networks Team | Marketing Strategy against which to monitor progress | April 2008 | <p>In common with the other Networks, no specific strategy document has been produced but the range of actions to widen awareness of the value of PIPA have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-operative working with the Planning Officers Society • Co-operation with PAS, the LGA and others over the 2008 PIPA Conference • a series of articles in Planning, including a contribution to the Networks' series on Climate Change • a presentation to the RTPI General Assembly • an advertisement in Councillor magazine • articles in Welsh and Scottish Planning |

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| | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attendance at the Labour and Conservative Local Government Spring Conferences attendance at the NALC Annual Conference contributing a Workshop at the Planning Convention a successful Scottish Conference supported by the Scottish Government New Quarterly bulletin for MPs, SMPs and AMs prominent inclusion in the 2008 Presidents' Report Excellent publicity from October Conference attended by Secretary of State LA marketing list purchased  |
| Carry out a member survey during 2008 to gauge levels of satisfaction and source potential content for the Business Plan 2008-09 | NM advised by CG | A good level of response to survey to allow confident planning for the Network | March 2008 | Survey completed, analysed and discussed with Core Group; review of 2008 Action Plan for 2009 completed  |
| Host a reception at the Elected Members' Summer School | NM | Raise awareness of the Network | September 2008 | TCPA hosted Reception 2008 but 'fringe' event arranged to provide an introduction to PIPA for Elected Member attendees; event followed up with mailing to all attendees; contacts made for possibly two further events  |

Provide a vehicle for all those involved in democratic planning to come together to build knowledge and exchange information and experiences

| Action | By Whom | Outcomes | When | Q4 Progress |
|--|------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Ensure that Network events and forum topics are topical and well publicised | NM advised by CG | Events achieve their attendance target and are well received (as indicated by the evaluation) | Quarterly | PIPA led the organisation of a Networks' event on the Planning Bill which was well attended and made positive contributions to the RTPI Policy positions on this and the Killian/Pretty review submission  |
| To offer in each UK nation across 2 years a Conference of the style which re-launched PIPA in 2007 | NM advised by CG | A well informed and represented membership | 2008: England + Scotland | Scotland event successfully held on 21 st June England/UK event also successful in October with Secretary of State's very positive endorsement and an |

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| | | | | increased level of bookings over 2007 😊 |
| Enable relevant topics to be debated through the Discussion Forum | NM advised by CG | Member engagement. Help develop a collective voice on key issues | New topics introduced fortnightly | New topics have been added but, to date, this has not increased rates of participation. Some interest in the LMRBs found via a specific survey rather than the Forum; on-line Polls are of potential use. 😐 |

Provide a sounding board to develop and improve democratic planning practice

| Action | By Whom | Outcomes | When | Q4 Progress |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| To develop a voice on the topic of 'the status of planning' to press: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chartered status of planning The status of the Chief Planning Officer within the local authority The need to increase the numbers of qualified planners | NM advised by CG | A more focussed engagement with members | To build up to the 2008 PIPA Conferences | Commenced with awareness raising through the Planning Officers Society and developed through PIPA contributions to CLG consultations and the briefings for and promotion of the two Conferences for 2008. Secretary of State made a particularly positive contribution at October Conference 😊 |
| Provide intelligence to the RTPi Policy Team by identifying forthcoming issues | Nm advised by CG & Members | Political engagement at an earlier stage | On-going throughout 2008 | A particular topic for Policy engagement has been the Local Member Review Body proposal PIPA members also contributed content for the RTPi submission to the CLG Committee on Skills and the Killian/Pretty review 😊 |
| To build co-operation with other organisations with shared interests, facilitating joint events whilst avoiding duplication | NM advised by CG | Regular liaison, perhaps with a representative on the Core Group | April 2008 | As agreed by the Core Group we will build engagement by inviting participation by other organisations providing speakers for the PIPA Conferences. The programmes for the Scottish and the Manchester Conferences show engagement across a wide range of related and influential bodies from the Scottish Sustainability Network to the TCPA. 😊 |

Provide a 'one stop shop' signposting service of professional planning information for all those involved in democratic planning within the UK

| Action | By Whom | Outcomes | When | Q4 Progress |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Provide media representation through Media Ambassadors initiative | CG | To respond positively to all opportunities for publicity | On-going throughout 2008 | Chair of Core Group provided a statement for RTPI Statement on Local Member Review Bodies. Additionally, Planning articles have been published in England, Scotland & Wales. ☺ |
| Populate website with comprehensive resources. | NM advised by CG & Members | 1 st class planning & politicians resource | On-going but major step-forward by February 2008 | 'Useful links' and 'RTPI Publications' for politicians in planning have been added, alongside the expanding content in the Discussion Forum and the accumulating 'events' content. ☺ |

Key:

NM Network Manager
CG Core Group

Resources

PIPA – the Politicians in Planning Network will have £3,300 financial support from the Institute in 2008 and 11.5 hours per week of professional staff time.

Comments

PIPA has enormous potential to have an influence on national decision-making. It also has a strong role to play in helping politicians adjust to changes required by introduction of new planning systems.

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